

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUCCHAR 04226 270858Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 270811Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4307

INFO SECDEF DOD/ISA

S E C R E T BUCHAREST 4226

EXDIS

SEC DEF FOR AKALOVSKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, RO

SUBJ: MILITARY SALES AND GENERAL WEYAND'S VISIT

REFS: A. STATE 200027 (221440Z AUG 75)

B. BUCHAREST 3953 (131505Z AUG 75)

1. EVEN IN DIPLOMACY THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN THE DIRECT APPROACH IS THE BEST APPROACH. THUS I BELIEVE THAT IF THE DECISION HAS NOW BEEN MADE THAT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION "AT THIS TIME" (LINE 5 REF A) TO SELL TO THE GOR ANY MILITARY HARDWARE INCLUDING "NON-LETHAL" EQUIPMENT, OTHER THAN MILITARY RELATED ITEMS FOR USE IN SPACE RELATED ACTIVITIES, THEN VALOR IS THE BETTER PART OF WISDOM AND WE HAD BETTER TELL THE ROMANIANS SO. POLITICAL, MILITARY AND LEGAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN MILITARY SALES TO A WARSAW PACT MEMBER SHOULD BE THE RATIONALE. I SEE NO BENEFIT TO BE DERIVED BY STRINGING THE GOR ALONG IF THE DECISION IS AS CLEAR-CUT AS REF A INDICATES. (I ASSUME INCIDENTALLY THAT MY SUGGESTION TO LEAVE THE DOOR AJAR FOR POSSIBLE SALE OF "NON-LETHAL" EQUIPMENT SIMPLY INVOLVED TOO MANY RISKS.)

2. HOW DO WE HANDLE THE SITUATION: FIRST, I THINK WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT GENERAL COMAN DID NOT PERSONALLY RAISE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BUCCHAR 04226 270858Z

THE ISSUE DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. ONE OF HIS ASSOCI-

ATES DID, BOTH IN THE U.S. AND IN BUCHAREST. THIS IS A PREDICTABLE ROMANIAN BEHAVIOR PATTERN. IF THE ANSWER MAY BE NO; IT'S BETTER THAT A SUBORDINATE BE INFORMED. ERGO, A SUBORDINATE MAY PUT THE QUESTION IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ON THIS OCCASION AS WELL, ALTHOUGH GEN COMAN COULD RAISE THE ISSUE WITH GEN WEYAND DURING THEIR FIRST MEETING.

3. IN ANY CASE I THINK WE SHOULD BROACH THE SUBJECT. WHEN? I RECOMMEND THIS BE LEFT TO GEN WEYAND AND ME TO FIGURE OUT HERE, BUT IN ANY CASE IT SHOULD BE DONE PRIOR TO GEN WEYAND'S DEPARTURE. WHO SHOULD GIVE THE BAD NEWS? AGAIN, I RECOMMEND GEN WEYAND AND I WORK THIS OUT HERE. I LEAN TOWARD A SCENARIO WHERE WE WOULD HANDLE THE MATTER TOGETHER. I DO NOT SEE ANY PARTICULAR MERIT IN MY SIGNALING THE GOR IN ADVANCE ABOUT OUR NEGATIVE POSITION ON SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMT. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WOULD BE IF WE RECEIVED ANOTHER APPROACH FROM THEM IN WHICH CASE WE WOULD CONVEY THE SIGNALS. FINALLY, WITH WHOM DO WE RAISE THE SUBJECT? I COME DOWN HARD IN FAVOR OF DEALING DIRECTLY WITH GEN COMAN, IRRESPECTIVE OF SENSIBILITIES. HE IS THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICER; HE IS THE MAN WHO WILL HAVE TO TRANSMIT THE NEWS TO CEAUSESCU; AND I WANT TO MAKE VERY SURE HE GETS THE MESSAGE STRAIGHT.

4. I HAVE ONE REQUEST: I NEED PERTINENT BACKGROUND ON THE LEGAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN ANY SALES TO A WARSAW PACT MEMBER.

5. I ALSO HAVE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS: THAT WE HAVE AUTHORIZATION PRIOR TO GEN WEYAND'S ARRIVAL TO INFORM THE GOR (SPECIFICALLY GEN COMAN IN THE FIRST INSTANCE) THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY ON THEIR REQUEST FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT, AT LEAST THE NON-CRYPTOGRAPHIC ELEMENT OF PACKAGE. WE SHOULD FISH OR CUT BAIT ON THIS MATTER WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. I RECOMMEND THAT WE FISH. INCIDENTALLY, WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR PROMISED INFORMATION FROM BGEN ADAMS (PARA 3, REF B) ON THIS SUBJECT. I ALSO RECOMMEND THAT WE HAVE SOMETHING MORE CONCRETE TO SAY TO ROMANIANS THAN FACT WE ARE QTE GIVING SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION UNQTE TO THEIR
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BUCAR 04226 270858Z

REQUEST FOR MILITARY-RELATED ITEMS FOR USE IN SPACE ACTIVITIES. IN THE CONTEXT WE NEED SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT PHRASE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUCHAR04226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750296-0516
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750810/aaaaaiug.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 200027, 75 BUCHAREST 3953
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY SALES AND GENERAL WEYAND'S VISIT
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, RO, (WEYAND, FREDERICK C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006